

Production and Output.

PRODUCTION AND OUTPUT OF CONNELLVILLE COKE PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED.

Steady at Approximately 400,000 Tons a Week While
Shipments Continue Close to 12,000 Cars a Week.

Fate of the Coke Selling Agency Is in
Hands of a Few Operators.

The coke production and output of the Connellsville regions remain steady at approximately 400,000 tons weekly production and 11,500 cars weekly shipment, indicating that supply and demand are keeping in pretty close touch with each other. The situation is otherwise featureless. The car supply is well maintained and there is no scarcity of labor or water. The only evils under which the trade now labors are short demand and short prices.

The fate of the central coke selling agency is now in the hands of a few prominent operators. If they sign up, the agency will be established as promptly as its machinery can be set in motion. They have the matter under consideration, but have not announced a decision. The proposed pool is composed of large independent coking interests. The very small operators have not been asked to come in at present, for the reason that they cannot make or unmake the sales merger. If it is successfully formed, they will probably be invited in or asked to contract with the central agency on equitable terms with a view to insuring uniformity in prices. In the meantime, the price of coke, as elsewhere noted, is following the downward trend of the pig iron market. While demand is steady and

many contracts are reported, the prices are lower than was dreamed of at the beginning of the year. Some contracts are reported at flat rates, running through a term of years; others on a sliding scale basis for long terms. These contracts indicate an inclination on the part of the operators to provide against possible future slumps worse than present conditions and to furnish an enduring foundation for continuous operation of at least a portion of their ovens.

In the active and idle lists of ovens in the Connellsville regions last week the changes were not worth mentioning. There was a decrease of less than 1,000 tons. Twenty-one less ovens were in blast in the two districts. The furnace ovens picked up over 2,000 tons, showing that much of a gain over the production of the previous week. The open market oven production fell off more than 2,500 tons compared with the output of the previous week.

Shipments last week were 178 cars short of the grand total in the regions the week of May 14. The loss was in coke consigned to Pittsburgh furnaces. Both Western and Eastern points took more cars of coke last week than they did the week before, but Pittsburgh fell off about 200 cars.

The Morgan Store Has Been Closed; Ovens Banked.

OWENSDALE, May 25.—The Morgan store of the Union Supply Company has been closed and the business transferred to Broad Ford. Matthew Gault, manager of the Morgan and Broad Ford stores will take charge. The coke depression struck the Morgan valley a serious blow and the lack of operations did not warrant the operating of two stores in such close proximity of each other and it was decided to operate only the store at Broad Ford.

OAKLAND RUMORS

That B. & O. Will Build Through
From Friendsville.

OAKLAND, Md., May 25.—(Special.) It is reported that the coal company will again open their mine at Kent. It is also reported that the B. & O. railroad company will extend their lines to Oakland. This would, if carried out, help them greatly. If for any reason their line should be obstructed east of Confluence, they could still run their trains by way of Friendsville and Oakland to Cumberland and other points east.

While a great amount of traffic would be transferred to the Washburn otherwise, as soon as that road is built. Report also says the big dams on the Yough will soon be started.

OVENS CLOSE.

Slump Is Also Felt in the West Virginia District.

MORGANTOWN, W. Va., May 25.—The coke ovens at Masontown have been closed and the ovens at Brez are being closed. A number of the families have moved away to secure work at other mines. The Connellsville Basin Coal & Coke Company is operating its ovens only three days out of the week and the lumber shipments from the Deckers Creek valley are falling off considerably.

It is not thought however that this situation of affairs will exist for any length of time and the officials of the companies are looking for an early resumption of work.

NEW GARWOOD OVENS.

Twenty-seven of Them Are Nearing Completion.

The 27 new ovens at the Garwood plant of the Duquesne Connellsville Coke Company are rapidly nearing completion and will probably be ready for operation within a month. Many improvements are being made around the tipple and yard.

This is one of the new plants of the region and is fast coming to the front.

District No. 8 Miners Agree. The operators and miners of the Pittsburgh No. 8 district, in conference at Wheeling, W. Va., reached a settlement Friday afternoon. The increase in the scale price, 5.5 per cent. is the same as agreed upon the Cincinnati convention.

INJUNCTION DISSOLVED

In Equity Suit of Wm. M. Henderson
Against Rocks Company.

The equity suit of William M. Henderson against the Rocks Coal & Coke Company, set for Tuesday, was taken up Tuesday afternoon before Judge J. Q. Van Swearingen. Some testimony was offered and after progress the preliminary injunction heretofore granted, is dissolved, but the bill filed by the plaintiff may be taken as a petition for a preliminary injunction on which a rule is granted on the defendant company directing them to show cause why an injunction should not be allowed.

The rule is made returnable Wednesday, June 1. Henderson in his original bill averred that the defendant company has crossed the boundary line and invaded the property of the plaintiff.

AN ASH EJECTOR

And Parsons Force Blast Have Been
Installed at Orient.

The Parsons force blast and ash ejector were installed at the Orient plant some weeks ago and have proved to be a success. A battery of two new boilers were recently installed here and an addition made to the boiler house and the floor of the boiler house cemented.

The ovens of this plant are almost a quarter of a mile from the shaft and are connected by a long steel and concrete trestle.

NEW ENGINE HOUSE

Replaces One Burned by Explosion at
Katherine.

The engine house that was burned by the explosion of a naphtha tank at the Katherine plant some weeks ago was replaced by a modern brick one. New ropes were put on the tipple and several new buildings are now under construction.

The 50 rectangular ovens at this place are proceeding slowly. They will be connected with the present block. The new electric push lever at Katherine is a pronounced success.

CAGE DROPPED

To Bottom of Leisenring No. 3 Shaft,
Men's Narrow Escape.

The cage at Leisenring No. 3 shaft broke some weeks ago and fell to the bottom of the mine. Two mechanics who had been working in the mine had just left the cage at the surface when it parted with the ropes and fell. An old cage was temporarily put up to take the place of the one that fell to the bottom. A new cage is being prepared and will be put in operation this week.

Changing Type of Ovens.

The changing from the beehive to the Mitchell type ovens at the Mt. Bradwell plant is getting under way and the work of rebuilding will commence soon. Large amounts of stone are already on the grounds.

Concrete Stoppings.

Fifteen concrete stoppings have been
put in at the Sterling mines.

Review of the Connellsville Coke Trade.

Statistical Summary.

PRODUCTION.	WEEK ENDING MAY 21, 1910.				WEEK ENDING MAY 14, 1910.			
	Ovens.	In.	Out.	Tons.	Ovens.	In.	Out.	Tons.
Connellsville.....	24,519	17,684	6,835	227,024	24,519	17,684	6,835	228,678
Lower Connellsville.....	14,789	12,786	2,003	166,161	14,789	12,787	2,082	168,169
Totals.....	39,308	30,470	8,838	393,185	39,308	30,471	8,917	396,847
Furnace Ovens.								
Connellsville.....	19,210	14,081	5,129	186,170	19,210	14,081	5,129	184,624
Lower Connellsville.....	4,613	3,770	843	48,845	4,613	3,770	843	50,973
Totals.....	23,823	17,851	5,972	235,015	23,823	17,851	5,972	235,597
Open Market Ovens.								
Connellsville.....	5,309	3,553	1,756	40,854	5,309	3,603	1,706	43,994
Lower Connellsville.....	10,176	9,016	1,160	117,316	10,176	9,887	1,189	117,186
Totals.....	15,485	12,569	2,916	158,170	15,485	12,500	2,895	161,180
SHIPMENTS.								
To Pittsburgh.....			3,945 Cars.				4,256 Cars.	
To Points West of Pittsburgh.			6,381 Cars.				6,206 Cars.	
To Points East of the Region.			1,044 Cars.				986 Cars.	
Totals.....			11,360 Cars.				11,538 Cars.	

Fifty New Ovens at Teresa Plant Well Under Way

There are 50 beehive ovens under construction at the Teresa plant of the Sunshine Coal & Coke Company at Martin, and they are being pushed rapidly. They are located just in front of the present block. A large power house was built some weeks ago and equipped with dynamos for running the electric motors that were just installed.

A battery of new boilers was also recently installed and several improvements made on the boiler house. A machine for separating dirt from oil is used at Teresa and the oil can be re-used after it has passed through this separator. This company recently acquired 40 acres of coal beside that it now already owns and they are preparing to work it.

FRICK COAL SOLD.

Pittsburg Coal Company Buys 3,000
Acres in Washington.

Deeds were filed this week in the Washington county court house at Washington, Pa., conveying 3,000 acres of Pittsburgh vein coal together with 400 acres of surface holdings of the Shaw Coal Company of Pittsburgh, to the Pittsburgh Coal Company. The property is located in Allegheny and Washington counties. The consideration was \$1,500,000, payment to be made in first mortgage bonds of the Pittsburgh Coal Company, dated January 1, 1910.

The conveyance is subject to an agreement between the Shaw Coal Company and the Panhandle railroad, which was made with the Shaw Coal Company, and by which the Panhandle purchased from the coal company the Midway & Oakdale railroad for \$150,000, and by reason of which the Shaw Coal Company agreed to ship all of the coal mined on the property over the line.

The Pittsburgh Coal Company has for several years operated the Shaw Coal Company, which is known as a Frick property, under a practically perpetual lease. Its royalties to the original company were paying for the property rapidly, and it was considered more advisable to purchase the property outright. No change will be made in the operations.

ARE OPTIMISTIC

In Lower Connellsville Region Despite
the Slump.

Coke depression is keenly felt in the Lower Connellsville region and large numbers of ovens have gone out of blast within the past month. Many veteran coke men in that section say the depression will not last long. At the plants where new ovens are being erected the work is being pushed rapidly which tends to show that the operators do not anticipate a long siege of the depression. The railroads in that section are making many improvements which is one of the signs of returning activities.

MADE A TOUR.

Y. M. C. A. Mining Secretary Finds
Interest in Institutes.

After a short tour of the Uniontown and Monongahela mining districts, last week, during which time he lent his efforts in the promotion of the Mining Institutes there, Secretary T. B. Ditz of the State Y. M. C. A. Mining Department returned to his offices at Greensburg Monday.

He gave out the statement that the work is being carried on there successfully and the Institutes are progressing in good shape.

WESTERN MARYLAND CONTRACTS ARE LET.

Connellsville Contractor Will
Build One Stretch
of Road.

WORK TO START AT ONCE

R. Gallardi is Given the Stretch Be-
tween Herd Land and Indian Creek.
Sand and Gravel Men Referred to
the Sub-Contractors.

Work on this end of the Western Maryland will begin immediately and already the successful contractors are assembling their equipment ready to begin work as soon as the weather will permit. The contracts have been let for the grading between here and Ohio, R. W. Hill & Company of New York will do this work on the West Side. His contract is between Connellsville and the Herd tract. From the Herd tract to Indian Creek, R. Gallardi of town was the successful bidder. Mr. Gallardi is preparing to start immediately.

W. H. McCourt of Akron, O., has the contract for a stretch between Indian Creek and Ohio.

All bids for supplying sand and gravel for the work have been referred by the Western Maryland to the successful sub-contractors.

In order that the road can be built as rapidly as possible the divisions have been made small in order that each sub-contractor can make the best time possible. Already the contractors are arranging to have their laborers early on the scene in order that operations can begin at once.

The John E. Carter Construction Company of Chicago, has the contract for building the 37 miles between Cumberland and Connellsville, but will construct only the 22 miles in Maryland and just beyond McKeen's, where the sub-contractors will begin. Bids are now in from all the sub-contractors and it is expected that June will be young when the work of building will begin all along the line.

The Carter concern has given bond to complete the entire line in 15 months and will soon have 10 steam shovels working between Cumberland and Frostburg and seven more between Frostburg and Savage mountain. The line to Savage mountain is to be completed within 12 months. The Carters will construct the Savage mountain and Corrigansville tunnels, the former being 2,000 feet long. Over 3,000 men will be employed on the entire contract and a record on the work is sought.

While the Western Maryland's managers are now concerned only with the building of the line to Connellsville, it is a fact that later they plan to run branches into the Jenner and other coal fields in northern Somerset county. Whether they will ever try to get into Johnstown is a question, but the building of the coal branches in the future is certain. Indeed, it is said men connected with the railroad have been dickering for coal lands in a significant section of the county.

A Banner Pay.

Nearly \$500,000 will be paid out by the industries of Fairmont and the Fairmont mining region Saturday. It was a banner pay.

Building Coalboats.

The River Coal Company has ordered
the building of 50 coalboats at Elizabethtown.

The Allison No. 1 Shafts at Mitchell

The three new shafts at the Allison No. 1 plant of the W. J. Rainey interests are rapidly nearing completion. The main shaft is nearly completed and the level frame and bins are in course of construction. There are two haulage shafts and the air course is being sunk. One of the blocks of the rectangular ovens is under way and part of the large trestle is built from the shaft to the ovens. Many new buildings are also under way. All the latest improved machinery will be installed.

BY-PRODUCT COKE

Making Taking on Rapid Strides in
This Country.

Changes of "great pitch and moment" are indicated in the coke industry, outside the Connellsville region within a few years; changes that will have a material bearing on the process of manufacture and in the communities where coke manufacturing has been the inspiring influence for the investment of millions of dollars in property.

By-product ovens came into use along in the 60's, but the recovery of blast furnace gases did not make any headway until along in the 80's when it was commenced in an experimental way in Belgium. Later it was used in Scotland, and it has materially increased and spread until we now have it in the Pittsburgh district on a large scale.

At Joliet, Ill., and Gary, Ind., the United States Steel Corporation has large and elaborate by-product coking plants representing a total cost of approximately \$5,000,000, a sum so large that it is unbelievable that the management would authorize so large an expenditure if they did not know with considerable certainty just what they are doing and why they are doing it.

It is further understood that the company's chemists have arrived at determinations which will enable the managers of the coking plants to admit various coals so as to get from them a better grade of coke.

TO DELIVER COAL CARS.

W. M. to Receive First Lot of Steel
Hoppers Next Week.

Delivery of 500 steel hopper cars to the Western Maryland railroad will begin the first of next week. This order was placed with the Cambria Steel Car Company some time ago. It is expected that 50 cars a day will be delivered until the entire order has been completed.

The Western Maryland will place these cars in service as soon as they are received. This additional equipment will enable the company to better handle the heavy traffic which is now being offered all over its lines, especially in the coal district. Earnings of the road for March show that the company is doing better now than ever before in its history.

An Old Employee.

Martin Kane has been employed at Leisenring No. 3 plant since it was first put in operation over 22 years ago. Andy Riley has been employed here for about 15 years.

Franklin Improvements.

Several improvements are being
made in and around the mine at the Franklin plant.

Prices and Prospects.

ACTIVITY IN COKE CONTINUES IN BUYING CENTERS LAST WEEK.

Contract for Approximately Half Million Tons for 1911
and 1912—Better Inquiry All Along the Line—Foun-
dries Promise to Have Better Business Second Half
of Year—Furnaces Still Doubtful.

Special to The Weekly Courier.
PITTSBURGH, May 25.—The Connellsville coke market continues the activity noted last week. Additional and important contracts have been placed, and some large inquiries are out which promise further heavy buying within the next fortnight.

A contract for approximately half a million tons was closed today, the buyers being the Cambria Steel Company, who contracted with the Lower Hill Connellsville Coke Company for a requirement of from 15,000 to 20,000 tons per month beginning January 1, next, and running through 1911 and 1912, with the option of a renewal of the contract for 1913. The buyer must take a minimum of 15,000 tons monthly, regardless of its operations. The price is flat, but is not given out. The deal was made through Brooks J. Goodin, Pittsburgh manager for Matthew Addy & Co.

A steel interest north of Pittsburgh, which has been negotiating for about 12,000 tons monthly for the twelve months beginning July 1, finally closed on a sliding scale basis, depending upon the monthly average price of pig iron. Reports have been in circulation that the business was placed at a flat price, but these reports were premature, besides being incorrect in substance.

A furnace interest west of the mountains has closed for its requirements for the second half, involving between 10,000 and 12,000 tons monthly, at the flat price of \$1.80.

A prominent consumer is out with an inquiry for 25,000 tons monthly over the second half. A flat price is suggested which is quite below the ideas of all operators, but a basis for opening negotiations is presented, and the business will doubtless be placed within the next fortnight, probably with two or three different sellers.

In quoting prices a slight divergence has appeared drawing a line between cokes of slightly different structure although of substantially the same analysis. The ideas of both producers and consumers are more clearly defined, and operators will not give away five or ten cents a ton from what they regard as the proper selling price, as they would when coke was \$2 a ton or higher. On the other hand, furnace owners with definite ideas as to the characteristics of different brands will give five or ten cents more for one brand than for another, on account of differences in structure, etc., when the coke grade is substantially the same on analysis, and all come within the designation of Standard Connellsville. Having regard to these minor differences, the market is quotable as follows:

Prompt furnace.....	\$1.65 @ \$1.70
Contract furnace.....	1.70 @ 1.85
Prompt foundry.....	2.25 @ 2.37
Contract foundry.....	2.35 @ 2.50

CRESSON COAL

Being Tested for and Shaft May Be
Put Down.

CRESSON, Pa., May 25.—Cresson and Lilly people have been interested in the work of prospectors on the south side of the Pennsylvania railroad, about a mile below Cresson. There are a number of stories about as to the object of the drilling, but to find some one who knows about the work is a hard matter. There are different stories as to what company is in charge of the testing.

Until a year or more ago, the Kokomo Coal Company operated a drift on the north side of the railroad, but the mine has been idle for several months. The Kokomo Coal Co. it is said were controlled by Coulter & Huff, of South Fork. The drilling which began a few days ago, is said by some to be in charge of the Keystone Coal & Coke Company, who controls the Tunnel Coal Company at Gallitzin. One report has it that the work was authorized by the Pennsylvania Coal & Coke Company. It is understood that if the prospectors find a good quality of coal, a shaft will be sunk.

RONCO AIR HAULAGE.

Big Help in Getting Coal Out in Quick
Time.

A new air motor haulage system was recently installed at the Ronco plant and has proved to be a success in rapid coal mining operations at that place. An air compressor and an overhead device for the hoisting engines was also installed. This is one of the new plants of the region and is located on the Monongahela river below Mason town.

There are 350 ovens in the plant and over 25 blocks of well built houses.

Contract prices named above are for second half, and it is doubtful whether sellers would do even the higher figure for a twelve months contract on furnace coke, although some brands of foundry coke could probably be had at \$2.50 for the twelve-month. Foundry coke, however, is extremely quiet, and has been so for weeks. The foundries are far from being busy. There is promise, however, that they will have much more work in the second half of the year. Some of the large foundry interests which make machinery have an enormous amount of work under negotiation, and in several cases the draughting and estimating departments of large machinery interests are working nights this week making up estimates. The quotations are not requested for fun and it is likely the machinery business will show much more activity later.

Last week and this we have reported furnace coke contracts amounting to about 70,000 tons monthly, chiefly for second half, but some tonnage running through the next year also. How much business was placed for second half in the buying movement of last fall is not known with any definiteness. Some contracts were placed for the half year, others for the year, and it is possible that some of the high-priced contracts written for the half year have been remodeled, in view of the lower prices now going, with an extension at the new price covering the second half.

Only the roughest approximation can therefore be made as to the furnace coke business yet to be done for second half, but this may be placed at between 100,000 and 200,000 tons monthly. If all furnaces were to buy the higher limit would probably be exceeded, but a feature of the present situation is that there are doubts about the running of several furnaces, particularly merchant furnaces, and this tends to confuse the estimate.

A feature to be noted in this connection is that, when there is doubt about a furnace running, the furnace interest is usually far from anxious to sell its coke if it runs and leaving it alone if it does not. Furthermore, the coke operator is decidedly averse to selling coke to such an interest, the deal favoring so much of the principle of "Head you win, tails I lose." I. e., if the pig iron market is poor in the third quarter and good in the fourth coke is likely to be the same way, and such a furnace would quite likely be idle in the third quarter, when the coke operator would be glad to work off his coke at the contract price, but operative in the fourth quarter when the operator would likely be able to sell his coke on the spot market at better than the contract price. Thus the placing of second half contract business is retarded.

AN IMPROVEMENT

Is Shown in Finished Steel With Cross
Currents in Pig.

Special to The Weekly Courier.
NEW YORK, May 25.—The American Metal Market and Daily Iron and Steel Report says:

Finished steel interests and a slight improvement in the general market, and expect a substantial improvement when Congress adjourns. The most important business of the week has been the placing of about 200,000 of the architectural implement requirements in steel bars for the July to June season. The soft steel bars were placed at the flat price of \$1.15, Pittsburgh, making the first case in which a concession was not given the architectural implement interest on their season business. The bidder places the "open market" on steel products in an interesting light, for with prices held by a definite understanding concessions can be given and withdrawn at will while in the present "open" market concessions might chance to become widely extended.

Current bookings in finished steel in single average between two-thirds and three-fourths of the actual production, but are made up largely of orders on old contracts, many of which expire June 29, and the question is whether the renewal of these contracts will produce a gap in the flow of actual business. Prospects for consumption in the second half of the year are favorable, with good crop prospects, the railroads in better condition, Congress out of the way, and so much more time for the country to have grown up to the increased capacity of the steel industry.

There are cross currents in the pig iron. Prices have not definitely receded further in the past week, but the time of delivery at minimum prices has been extended. Producers are still more affected by the short selling. They have thrown off the burden of anxiety but consumers have hardly taken it on, although they are showing more interest.

Summer Coal Production.
Coal output in Somerset county is as high as it was during the winter.

Improvements at Lemont.
Both the Lemont plants are under-
going several improvements about the
yards and about the mines.

Harbison-V

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THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 26, '10.

ANGLING AND DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES.

Waynesburg is trying to prevent the pollution of Ten Mile creek, its only considerable stream of water. The movement comes none too soon, but we are not certain that it comes strong enough. We read in the Waynesburg Messenger that the title plate mill has taken steps to filter its acid refuse which has hitherto been dumped into the stream and has killed all the fish. The Messenger is much pleased with this action of the company and demands that the stream be restocked with game fish.

The restoration of Ten Mile creek fishing is not the most important work of the Waynesburg people. Of incomparable greater moment is the freeing of Waynesburg's domestic water supply from any form of pollution.

Angling is a pleasant amusement but pure water is a stern necessity.

However, the State is undertaking for the communities of the Commonwealth which the communities would have been a long time in doing on their own motion. It proposes to compel the communities to preserve the purity of their streams by forbidding their contamination with any foreign substance of any character from tin house acids to common sewage. This work is undertaken for the protection of the towns and cities and it should receive the hearty cooperation rather than the opposition of the citizens.

THE COMET, THE UNIVERSE AND THE ATOM CALLED MAN.

The comet passed us Wednesday night without making any visible sign of its presence in the vicinity, just as the consensus of astronomical opinion predicted. None of the dire disasters fancifully portrayed happened. The timid who were more or less disturbed or terrified by lurid pictures of cataclysms drawn by this class of scientific romancers awoke this morning with new hope and a fresh love for nature in her milder terrestrial moods.

It has been suggested that the passing of the comet will not have been in vain for the reason that it will awaken a popular interest in the study of astronomy, which it is urged promotes intellectual attainment and spiritual progress.

The contemplation of the universe which Halley's comet has turned the popular mind to will serve a good purpose. It humbles the pride of man when he begins to realize in a dim and uncertain way how very small a creature he is in the vast Realm of the Unknown. The microbes of earth are giant creations compared with man's relative size in the universe.

When it is considered that we are part of the solar system whose vastness our wise men have measured in units of billions of miles, and that this system is only one of many, and that all are drifting through limitless space in an unknown orbit, the human mind is lost in the contemplation of this unfathomable immensity.

Man is but an atom after all. Even atoms have their uses, however. Some are more intelligent, more forceful and more effective than others. The moral of the observation is that we should strive to be good atoms, and not borrow trouble concerning the regulation of the universe.

That is apparently in charge of a Master Hand.

BEER MERGERS AND AGENTS IN FAYETTE COUNTY.

Beer has become an interesting question in Fayette county with the close of license court, the close of the beer merger, the passing of the beer agent, the advent of hot weather and the application of new rules and regulations. The beer merger is not complete, but the door is open for the independent to come in. The terms and conditions are the same. The financing is complete. It is up to the outsiders to consider well the purposes and effects of consolidation.

The chief purpose of the beer merger is, of course, to make more money. It is reasonable to presume that the centralization and economical administration effected by consolidation will materially increase profits, and the estimates of the merged interests upon this question are no doubt reasonable.

Complete merger would have eliminated the beer agent without any action on the part of the court. Complete consolidation will efface the last vestige of competition without increasing the prices of beer to the consumers; it will also establish a wholesale regulation of this branch of the liquor traffic. The plans of the merger for the closing of its product fit in with those of the county authorities for promoting

ing sobriety and preserving law and order.

While forbidding the employment of beer agents, the court has in a manner recompensed the brewing interests by directing the retailers to sell nothing but Fayette county draft beer over their bars. This is a radical extension of the Republican doctrine of protection to home industries, and if it is to become a part of the Fayette county license system it should be extended to the sale of Fayette county whiskey also. The Fayette county distilleries are entitled to just as much protection as the Fayette county brewers.

The sensible people of Fayette county will approve all reasonable regulations of the court, or mergers of producing interests, which tend to sobriety and good citizenship.

THE CEMENT AGE IN DEMOCRATIC POLITICS.

The Advisory Finance Committee of the Pennsylvania Democracy ask for a fund of \$20,000 for the unique and indefinite purpose of the "unification and cementing of the party," which moves the Uniontown Standard to observe that this sum will not likely furnish enough "cement" for the needs of the party. Continuing The Standard says:

Democratic party "cement" is one of the most expensive brands of the article on the market. The prospects of "unification" can not be very encouraging to the friends of Candidate Munson. The absent and the leading Democratic paper in the State, the Johnstown Democrat, is of the opinion that Munson is not a Democratic Democrat. It has discovered that Candidate Munson was of the reservation for a decade or more and regarded himself as especially available for the nomination for Supreme Judge in 1908, because he didn't have any politics worth mentioning. And while The Democrat concedes that Munson's heavy politics might have served a useful purpose in that campaign, it insists that for Governor the party needs a candidate who has been a Democrat in and out of season.

On the other side Munson's supporters object to the prohibition streak in Candidate Berry's politics. They profess to believe that the times demand a candidate different from the composition of Berry. And so it is that the \$20,000 unification and cement fund seems pitifully small for the purposes aimed.

But it is seriously thought that the Democratic party can be harmonized for the comparatively insignificant sum of \$20,000 there ought not to be any trouble in raising it, especially if Colonel James Madison Giffey is to be taken on the joy wagon. If the proposed harmony plan is real and reasonable Colonel Jim would doubtless take pleasure in writing his check for the whole amount. In State politics \$20,000 is a mere trifle. It wouldn't cement one side of a judicial campaign in Fayette county.

But neither \$20,000 nor 20,000 years of effort will harmonize, cement and unify the Democratic factions of Pennsylvania, if the Outfit Conservatives and the Bryan Progressives continue in their past relations, and from present indications the searing knife will never be allowed to become dull nor the hatchet to be buried.

A fund of \$20,000 judiciously expended might cement some of the Indiana temporarily to the disbanding cause, but a great deal more cement will be required to hold such union securely together.

This is something of a cement age in politics as well as in architecture.

GREENE COUNTY'S POLITICAL REFORMATION.

The Waynesburg Messenger urges all Democrats, urges all the Rockwater Democrats of Greene county to go to the polls and vote the primary ticket so that they will not be classed with those who remain away because "there is no money in the campaign."

For many years the Greene County Democrats' primaries were carnivals of political corruption. The practice of buying votes became so common that men of substance and standing in their communities told their hands just as persistently as the vilest vagabond whose only available asset in life was his vote. This demoralized Democratic condition continued until it ruined the county's leading bank and sent its cashier to prison. Reform came only when the corruption fund ran out and could not be replenished.

The character of this reformation is disclosed in the pitiful plea of the ancient and honorable organ of the Greene county Democracy. It is not repentance but repression. It is the virtue of necessity not the wholesale eradication of vice. The habit of political bawling has been suspended, but there are evidently many who wear the yoke of pure politics with bad grace and even sullen resentment.

The Merersdale Republican lost its gear wheel several weeks ago and apologizes for its trouble in getting off press ever since. Newspaper offices have their afflictions. An Arizona paper lost its "m" and had to suspend publication a week.

Boilers should quit letting go and give the comet a chance.

South Connelville's latest industry is going lame.

Berlin's Board of Trade wants a trolley line to Berlin connecting it with Somerset and Meyersdale, and proposes that it be built by local capital. This is a good way to build it, but perhaps it would be wise to establish an iron-bound voting trust controlling the stock and working under a trust agreement not to sell out to a rival company without the consent of at least the majority of the stockholders, and that said said embrace all the stock which desires to participate therein.

Uniontown's six-foot policeman is a living, moving, striking exemplification of the Higher Law.

Waynesburg is growing in civic pride and enterprise. It is endeavoring to provide a public pond for summer angling and winter skating. Waynesburgers may have sold their coal, but they still retain their sporting spirit.

The Pinkerton man who shot and killed a companion was convicted of murder in the second degree apparently

because it was shown that he was intoxicated. Drunkenness, like ignorance, is no excuse for crime, but rather an aggravation of it. The jurors, however, claimed their right to be judges of the law as well as of the facts.

Mill Run is something of an institute town itself.

The Sunday School Convention wants to make Washington City a dry town. It's dry enough at times in spots, Capitol Hill, for example.

The Smithfield man who found \$10 in his tobacco package will continue to choose to indulge himself in chews.

But your hook with something that looks like money if you would catch the crowd.

The valuation of Fayette county has made a substantial increase over that of three years ago and the town and township assessors have to found.

Dr. J. A. Holmes is the logical head of the federal Bureau of Mines and is peculiarly well fitted for the position. He should have the appointment.

Electric signs may come and go, but the signs written in the newspaper columns in printer's ink are not subject to municipal authority, and they come and go to an excellent purpose.

Fayette county has fifteen millionaires districts.

The police department of Dawson compels offenders against the law to come out of the wood and in doing so no expenditures of personal effort or official discomfort are considered.

The automobile fever is growing in Connelville.

A Dunbar man has discovered that the Fayette county beef morgan is contrary to the Brooks law and calls upon District Attorney Henderson to put a stop to it. We suggest that this Dunbar Trust Buster hire a lawyer.

Brownsville wants an emergency hospital for quick Klondike ministrations.

The Naoml mine case is rich in its money claims but in a sense it is like the poor, namely, we always have it with us.

One good feature of the White House is its ample lot. President Taft contemplates some theatricals there this summer. He ought to build a washstand on the back lot and commute in a fatherly manner with the insurgents there after office hours.

The Bessemer Bugle labors through a couple of columns of its special editorial matter this morning convincing itself that Uniontown is the center of the coke region and of every thing else in Fayette county, and that the pivotal point upon which this section revolves is the swinging chair of the editor. It helps to fill up and it doesn't do any harm.

The union farmers of Fayette county bid fair to become the only really intellectual section in the country, not excepting Boston, Mass.

With the breaking of day and the falling of night, this old world has its troubles.

The aviators are getting the habit of taking a fall out of the atmosphere every now and then with dangerous and deadly results.

The dowry right of the widow in the estate of her husband is a right which even the husband may deprive her of, and the law is founded in reason and justice.

The railroad bill is nearing the end of the Congressional line.

Princeton has collided with another fortune. It's a hurtful collision, have.

The Morning Scream takes a stab at Mud Island now and then but it is now compelled to admit that Connelville has the enterprise, the ability and the perseverance.

Dunbar is adding a few industries as she goes along.

The contractors are damping on the Western Maryland trail.

The beer merger and the comet transacted about the same time.

The eternal war between Sammy Gomper and the American manufacturer goes merrily on. It would be better for both if they would awaken to the fact that they have a real community of interest.

Francis Rocks is charged with getting in wrong in some of his mining operations. Rocks sometimes get in wrong in a coal seam, but it is not often they are cited to appear before the court for doing so.

The Beer merger is partially formed and sufficiently made to make some part out of the business. The brewing interests are standing out, but perhaps better get in out of the storm of competition before their beer becomes, in the classic language of Shakespeare, "flat, stale and unprofitable."

A good many men, and all motorcycles, make too much noise for the size of the lead they carry.

It's about time the reckless and rather senseless strike in the Irwin, Greensburg, Latrobe and Ligons districts was being settled.

Connellsville has a new natural gas dispensation and we will hope that one of its primary rules will be courtesy to patrons of the company.

CHAT WITH OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

The Waynesburg Messenger approves the determination of the Franklin township authorities to strictly enforce the law against auto speeding.

We thought everybody in Greene county owned an automobile, but it seems that The Messenger and the Franklin township authorities are exceptions.

The Donora Independent declares that the coal strike in the Greensburg district is responsible for his withdrawal of Colonel Huff as a candidate for Congress.

We fear The Independent is a suspicious sheet.

BILL IN EQUITY IN SOMERSET CO.

Fifty Plaintiffs Bring Action Against Penwood Coal Company.

THERE IS DISPUTE ABOUT STOCK

Want a Receiver Appointed to Collect Unpaid Money From the Stockholders—A Fire Brick Company Sued For Damages.

SOMERSET, Pa., May 24.—A bill in equity was filed this morning by 50 plaintiffs against the Penwood Coal Company, a corporation, and Clarence E. Martin of Martinsburg, W. Va., Charles J. Harrison and Charles F. Uhl, Jr., both of Somerset, whom the plaintiffs aver own all the capital stock of the defendant company, 1,500 shares, each owning 500 shares.

The plaintiffs are William Weinor, W. P. Maule, Tony Morrell, George W. Miller, Charles E. Baker, E. M. Farlong, J. J. Montford, Edward Friedline, J. A. Williams, Albert Bridgman, Lewis Wagner, Hiram Baker, John Golda, Frank Church, Harry Sheeler, S. P. Young, Simon Parks, J. W. Whipkey, W. H. Whipple, H. E. Atchison, W. J. Miller, John Bailey, Calvin Atchison, Marshall Enos, Herman Enos, S. J. Enos, J. M. Enos, Harry Enos, Russell Garfield, V. M. Enos, Russell G. Wilt, Coulter G. Parks, W. M. Parling, John P. Wilt, James Miller, Charles B. Critchfield, Thomas Pitts, H. G. Gerhart, S. W. Murphy, James Brennan, Isiah Baker, William Rose, Joe Hornish, John Miller, R. E. Able, William Zull, James Kirkpatrick, Albert Leyden, Henry Yutsey and A. J. Growl.

The plaintiffs set forth in their bill that the defendant Penwood Coal Company was chartered on February 26, 1906, and aver that the owners of the stock, the defendants, paid in only 10 per cent of the value of their stock, leaving unpaid 90 per cent.

The plaintiffs also set forth that the Penwood Coal Company owns about 1,200 acres of coal property in Black township, and that it has been operating mines on that property from time to time since its incorporation, and was so doing in the months of January, February and March 1910, ceasing the operation of its mine about March 15 for the reason that it had no funds to pay its employees. The defendants were all employed about the mines and the total amount of wages due them is \$2,813.10, for which they filed liens on the property some time ago. They also set forth that the Penwood Coal Company has placed a mortgage on its property to secure a loan of \$1,000,000 and that bonds to the amount of \$5,000 have been issued. (The debts of the company are placed at \$5,000, exclusive of interest and costs, which are heavy. Plaintiffs also aver that the company is insolvent and that its property is insufficient to pay the debts and liens, and has no available assets other than the amounts due from stockholders.)

The plaintiffs pray that the court will appoint a receiver to collect the unpaid money from the stockholders and make a distribution of all the assets of the concern among its creditors.

John H. Miller of near Meyersdale has brought suit against the Savage Fire Brick Company of Johnstown to recover damages in \$3,000 for injuries sustained by his son Charles R. Miller, a minor, while working in the plant of the defendant company at Keystone Junction last July. The boy's foot was caught in a chain and drawn into cog wheels which crushed the ankle permanently incapacitating him from labor. Attorneys A. C. and F. A. Holbert represent the plaintiff.

A rather unusual appointment of a guardian took place on Saturday evening in the office of Register Bert F. Landis. A young couple, Robert M. Zerfoss and Clara Knew, both of Somerset township, came to the office of the Register seeking a marriage license, and in filling out the application form it was discovered that the bride-to-be was under the age of 21. After some inquiry Mrs. Cora B. Ogile, wife of John G. Ogile, Esq., consented to act as guardian, and she was appointed and her bond arranged for by telephone. The marriage license was granted and the young couple were married on Sunday afternoon.

A DISTRICT INSTITUTE AT MILL RUN U. B. CHURCH

Arranged for by the Executive Committee of the W. C. T. U. on Saturday.

The executive committee of the W. C. T. U. of the Connelville district met Saturday afternoon at the Carnegie Free Library and arranged for a district institute to be held Tuesday, June 21, in the United Brethren Church at Mill Run. All the districts were represented with the exception of Ohio township authorities to strictly enforce the law against auto speeding.

We thought everybody in Greene county owned an automobile, but it seems that The Messenger and the Franklin township authorities are exceptions.

The Donora Independent declares that the coal strike in the Greensburg district is responsible for his withdrawal of Colonel Huff as a candidate for Congress.

We fear The Independent is a suspicious sheet.

Union Farmers at Freed Farm Have Big Day

Farmers and their families from all over Fayette county attended the monthly meeting of the Union Farmers' Club of Fayette County held Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Freed in Dunbar township. The meeting was pronounced the best for some time. T. H. Smith, President of the club presided.

The opening session convened at 11 o'clock and a short period was taken up with routine business. The subject for discussion was "Opportunities For Young Men Today and Forty Years Ago." J. H. Junk read a paper on "Are They As Great Now as Then?" after which G. D. Bryson, followed with a paper on "Are Young Men As Energetic As the Advantages of Them Now As Then?" The query "Is a College Education Necessary to Attain the Greatest Success in Life?" was in charge of A. A. Taggart. The subject was one of the most interesting ones before the club for some time and everyone present had something to say regarding it.

The opinions of the farmers were equally divided. Col. J. J. Barnhart was a firm supporter of the advantages 40 years ago. He with several other farmers claimed that 30 years ago a bushel of oats sold for as much as it more than it does today. All present agreed that the advantages in securing an education are greater today than 40 years ago. At noon a well appointed dinner was served by Mrs. Freed. The next meeting will be held Saturday June 18, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilchrist near Uniontown. Arrangements will be made for the annual outing to be held Saturday, August 30.

RICHEY SLASHED BY BAD ITALIAN.

Tried to Prevent Attack on Two Men and Got the Worst of Argument.

SIX STITCHES ARE REQUIRED

To Sew Up the Wound—Three Arrests Made by the Police and All of Them Are Held—One Gets Out Under Bail for Hearing.

Charles A. Richey narrowly escaped fatal injury Saturday night when he attempted to prevent a brawl between five Italians who got off the 11:30 car at the west end of the bridge. Richey interposed to protect two Italians and received a knife slash in his neck which went dangerously near the jugular vein. As a result of the cutting attack Joseph Pagano, Louis Santorino and Francisco Falzetti were arrested and are being held on serious charges.

Pagano is alleged to have done the cutting. His knife slipped into Richey's neck. It was necessary for Drs. G. W. Gallagher and E. B. Edie to place six sutures before the severed portions of flesh could be dressed.

The three Italians are alleged to have picked a quarrel with two others on the car and when they got off at First street, West Side, the trio followed them. Richey boards at the West Side hotel and alighted also. As the three swooped down upon the two, Richey intervened and in a flash Pagano, it is averred, pulled out a knife and hacked the peacekeeper. The three Italians then made a scurry for cover.

While Richey was taken to the office of Dr. Gallagher, Officer William Stoner took up the chase for Pagano. He landed him in a corner of First street, where he crouched behind a pile of stones. Later Officer George Francis arrested Santorino, who had come to the lock-up to talk to Pagano. County Detective Frank McLaughlin arrested Falzetti Sunday morning. Information against the trio was made by McLaughlin before Square Robert McLaughlin of Dunbar township. Pagano was released on bail for his appearance at the hearing while the other two were taken to jail by Constable William Roand.

THE GRAND TOTAL FAYETTE ASSESSMENT

For This Year Will Reach \$86,765,523, a Gain of \$16,692,354 Over Last Year.

UNIONTOWN, May 21.—The County Commissioners this morning tallied the 1910 assessment rolls of Fayette county which show a grand total of \$86,765,523. Last year the total was \$70,073,168. This is an increase for the 1910 figures of \$16,692,354.

The richest township in the county is Luzerne, with \$8,677,348. The last township to be tallied was Springfield which shows this year \$251,949.

Bought Tin Plate Plant.

It is officially announced that the Messrs. N. & G. Taylor Company of Philadelphia, large independent manufacturers of tinplate of all kinds, have purchased from H. H. Dickey and his associates, the plants of the Maryland Tin Plate Company and the Maryland Sheet & Steel Company.

BREWERY MERGER EFFECTIVE SATURDAY

Directors and Officers of New Company Will Be Elected.

CAPITALIZATION OF \$7,500,000

Placed at That Figure To Include All the Breweries in the County Including Plants of the Pittsburgh Company Options Are Closed.

Next Saturday the five breweries in Fayette county that have been merged into the Fayette Brewing Company will be taken over by the new company. On that day a meeting will be held and directors and officers of the new company will be elected.

All of the options that had been extended to May 15 were taken up by the promoters of the merger. The companies that come into the merger are the Macdewtown Brewing Company, the Brownsville Brewing Company, the Tough Brewing Company, the Republic Brewing Company and the Johnson Brewing Company. The Brownsville Ice Company is also included with the plant of the Brownsville Brewing Company. There is no hitch over these companies coming into the combination. Options they gave have been accepted and closed. The new company will commence to do business the first of the month, all the business which will comprise 80 per cent of that done by all the breweries of the county, being handled under one management.

Negotiations are under way for the absorption of the four breweries in the county that did not come into the merger when its organization was assured last week. These breweries are the two plants of the Pittsburgh Brewing Company at Connelville and Uniontown and the plants of the Fayette and Labor Brewing Company at Uniontown. The capitalization of \$7,500,000 was arranged to include these four breweries.

It is therefore counted as certain that the brewing business in Fayette county will be much more profitable hereafter, especially as the combine is to have a strong and experienced board of directors offered by the best business men in the various underlying companies.

The combination was promoted by R. A. Whiteside, of the Real Estate & Mortgage Company of Pittsburgh, and A. M. Nepper is general counsel for the new company. Its capitalization is divided into \$2,500,000 preferred stock and \$5,000,000 common stock and \$2,500,000 bonds, all of which have been underwritten and subscribed. It is understood the combine was financed through the Union Trust Company.

It is rumored that some of the brewing people have indicated a purpose to ignore the rules of the license court. A representative of the beer merger, to whom inquiry was directed, said: "I hope this is a mistake. We will strictly observe the rules and the law, so far as we are concerned. We think any other course would be unwise, not to say unlawful."

Greene County Man's Funny Idea of Punishment

WAYNESBURG, May 24.—A warrant was sworn out one day last week by Charles M. Yoders, of this place, charging Curtin G. Morris with wantonly pointing firearms and was served by Constable J. P. Allum. Morris was taken before Justice of the Peace Frank Morris, at Fordyce, and furnished bond in the sum of \$500 for his appearance in court.

While the charge is pointing firearms, it is said to be only a small part of the story.

Yoders is a huckster in the employ of J. F. Tillow and makes regular trips to various parts of Greene county. One of these trips takes him to the Whiteley district and it had been his custom to take dinner at the home of Morris. It is said that on his last trip, just after he had finished his meal, that Morris invited Yoders to the barn to have a drink of whisky. Yoders is supposed to have accompanied him and when they reached the mow of the barn, it is alleged that Morris pulled a revolver and demanded of Yoders if he would be willing to face his (Morris's) wife. Yoders, it is said, replied that he would. Apparently this did not satisfy Morris, for as a further precaution, it is said, Morris demanded that Yoders' hands should be bound.

It is alleged that when Morris first pulled his revolver Yoders forcibly unbound his assailant, but when he was asked to have his hands bound he surrendered the revolver. When Yoders' hands had been bound behind his back it is said that Morris reached over to a rafter and pulled down a rope, on the end of which a noose had been previously made and attempted to place it around Yoders' neck. At this move at the hands of his assailant Yoders gave a lunge forward and broke the bondage from his hands.

It is thought by some that Morris' mind had become unbalanced. The theory that jealousy could be the cause is without foundation, as Mrs. Morris is one of the most respected women in the neighborhood.

Found \$10 Bill in Package of Mail Pouch

SMITHFIELD, May 23.—Ira Moore, a Baltimore & Ohio brakeman, has often been told that tobacco chewing is a bad habit but, like others of his sex, sticks to habits and is now glad of it. Incidentally, he will not change his brand from "Mail Pouch."

While coming in on his run Saturday, with an engine steaming well, he paused in his labors and opened a package of tobacco preparatory to taking a chew. He pulled out a fairly good load of the weed and found what seemed to be a piece of paper in it. Investigation developed, however, that a \$10 bill had found its way into the tobacco. Moore pocketed the bill and then took an extra sized chew for luck.

EYE REMOVED.

Harry McGraw Operated On at Hospital Monday.

Harry McGraw had his right eye removed Monday afternoon at the Cottage State hospital as the result of an injury to the eye about 26 years ago. He was playing with a toy pistol when it exploded, injuring his eye. He had received recent treatment but with no avail. Mr. McGraw is a son of Mrs. S. D. McGraw of East Fairview avenue.

Echard Filed Replication.

UNIONTOWN, May 24.—In the equity suit of Christian Echard against Paul Maury et al, the plaintiff Monday, filed a replication joining issue with the defendant on the points set up in the latter's answer filed last Friday. The replication was filed by Attorney A. E. Jones.

L. M. GILLET DIES SUDDENLY.

Short Illness Carries Off Well Known Citizen Saturday.

SERVICESHOLD MONDAY EVENING

Was Followed By Funeral Journey to Elmira, N. Y., Where Interment Was Made—Had Lived Six Years in Connelville.

On the sixth anniversary of his business relations with A. W. Bishop, the jeweler, Lewis Marvin Gillett, aged 51 years, died Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock at his late home No. 410 East Main street. Six years ago Sunday Mr. Gillett came to Connelville to take a position as watchmaker for Mr. Bishop and during that time he had made a host of friends who regret to learn of his sudden death. Mr. Gillett had been a sufferer from stomach trouble for about 25 years. Since last August he has been failing in health. While at work Wednesday afternoon he was taken ill and was assisted to his home by his son. His condition improved and on Wednesday night he attended a lecture in the Seisison theatre. Friday his condition became more serious and about 7 o'clock Saturday morning he sank into an unconscious condition and remained in that state up until his death. His sickness later developed into a cancer and his death was due to hemorrhages. His sudden death came as a great shock to the members of his family and friends. He had planned a trip to New York and expected to start the latter part of this week.

Mr. Gillett was a son of George and Susan Gillett, deceased. He was born and reared at Caton, N. Y., and was educated at the Cornell Academy, N. Y. When a young man he learned the jewelry business with D. J. Fero of New York. In 1896 he married Miss Grace McClue of New York State. The greater part of their married life was spent in Elmira, N. Y., where Mr. Gillett was in the jewelry business. He was a member of the Macanhees at Caton. He was a visiting member of the local Masons and Masceboes. Deceased was a member of the Baptist Church at Caton for many years. In addition to his widow he is survived by two sons, Burton, F., a student at the Art Students League, New York; Clyde F., and Doris M., at home. One sister, Miss Lillian Gillett, of New York City, also survives.

Funeral services were held from his late home Monday evening at 8 o'clock. Rev. J. L. Proudfit of the First Presbyterian Church officiated. The body was shipped to Elmira, N. Y., Tuesday morning on the early Pennsylvania train by Funeral Director J. E. Sims.

COMING MARRIAGE

Of Wm. F. Soisson and Mrs. Jennie Wyeth of Chicago.

The marriage of William F. Soisson, a prominent business man of Connelville, and Mrs. Jennie Wyeth of Chicago, will be solemnized in Chicago early in June. The ceremony will be witnessed only by the near relatives.

STEEL CORPORATION KEEPS SURPLUS DOWN

Running Now Between 80
and 85 Per Cent.
Capacity.

SITUATION NOT DISCOURAGING

Steel Manufacturers Believing the Current Lull is Temporary—Orders Since May 1 Show an Increase of 10 to 15 Per Cent.

The United States Steel Corporation at the present time is operating between 80 and 85 per cent of its capacity. This means a reduction in output between 10 and 15 per cent, as the steel corporation has at no time since the recovery in steel operated its mills in excess of 95 per cent of capacity.

About 20 blast furnaces have been blown out within the last several weeks, but most of these are outlying furnaces with a much smaller capacity than the stacks in the district where steel production is more centralized.

It is believed the pronounced reduction in the output of pig iron as well as steel will strengthen the situation materially. It is only to prevent a surplus accumulation of material, but assist in the maintenance of reasonable prices for products.

Steel manufacturers do not regard the outlook as discouraging. They believe the current lull is temporary, and that the placing of large bond issues by the railroad companies abroad and assurances as to crops will be followed by a resumption of steel buying that will guarantee normal operations for all mills well into the latter part of the year.

As compared with March, orders in the month of April decreased approximately 20 per cent. In the first week of the current month, however, there was a better demand for steel, but whether or not this improvement will continue is not known. Orders since May 1 show an increase of between 10 to 15 per cent, compared with new business in the month of April.

On a basis of 82 per cent of capacity, the steel corporation is today turning out at the rate of about 10,200,000 tons of finished steel "for sale" a year. Last year the actual production of finished steel "for sale" was 9,553,000 tons; in 1908, 8,265,592 tons, and in 1907, 10,581,000 tons. Therefore, the steel corporation, notwithstanding a falling off of between 10 and 15 per cent in production, is shipping material at a rate equal to the boom year of 1907.

If it were possible for the steel corporation to operate its mills to full capacity, it could easily turn out finished steel at the rate of more than 12,000,000 tons a year. As an example, the actual shipments of the corporation in the month of March were 1,075,000 tons, which was at the rate of 12,900,000 tons a year.

NATURAL COKE.

Virginia Company to Exploit Body of So-Called Fuel.

It is reported that the Old Dominion Development Company is about to exploit a deposit of natural coke, so-called, which exists on its property in the James River Basin, near Richmond, Va. This same deposit was worked for a while, some ten years ago by a company of Boston capitalists headed by Ware B. Gay. While it seemed to meet with favor as a domestic fuel in Richmond and vicinity, operations were not continued long, presumably because it cost too much to get it into marketable shape. A good deal of preparation is required to eliminate the impurities found in the seam.

The scene of operations is about 20 miles from Richmond and near the line of the Chesapeake & Ohio, with which connection is had. The nearby town is known as Gayton, or Carbon Hill. The Old Dominion Development Company began operations in that section about a year ago, but until recently confined itself to the coal measures. A piece of waterfront property has been acquired at Richmond, and it is planned to make shipments down the James River if the plans for developing the natural coke deposits are successful.

What is called natural coke is a sort of geologic freak attributed to volcanic action on coal deposits. The coking process was imperfect, but evidently some of the volatile matter contained in the coal was released, and the percentage of carbon thereby augmented. Such deposits are occasionally encountered in widely separate sections, but we do not know of any case where they have proved of much commercial value.

IMPORTANT EXTENSION.

C. & O. Considering Building Direct Connection for Lake.

The Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company contemplates building a line of 30 miles from Huntington, W. Va., across the Ohio river and northward to Wellston, O., connecting there with the Hocking Valley Railway, in which the Chesapeake & Ohio recently acquired an interest. This route would give a direct outlet for coal from the Elk Horn region in Kentucky to the great lakes at Toledo. Edwin Hawley of New York, who is now prominent in Chesapeake & Ohio affairs, says that nothing definite has yet been decided as to building of the new line. In fact, President G. W. Stevens says that the engineers are examining various routes for the desired connection, but none has been selected.

PNEUMATIC SYSTEM

Of Hauling Coal at Gary Inspected by Mining Men.

The pneumatic system of coal handling in experimental use at one of the United States Coal & Coke Company's mines at Gary, W. Va., was inspected last week by a party of mining men, most of them from the Pocahontas district. The new device consists of a pipe some 6,000 feet in length connecting the tipple with the face of the seam. A suction fan in the tipple creates a partial vacuum in the tube and the coal is drawn through at high velocity.

Those who witnessed the demonstration declined to express themselves as to the practicality of the apparatus under ordinary conditions and sustained use, but it is said to have worked well during the test. It was invented by Col. Edward O'Toole, general superintendent at the Gary mines, who is also the inventor of a mining machine to be used in conjunction with the pipeline. The visitors incidentally looked over the power house and other improvements at Gary, all of which are of a highly modern character. The company, it will be recalled, is a subsidiary of the Steel Corporation.

Dunbar Industry Will Soon Employ Two Hundred Men

DUNBAR, May 19.—Notice has been published in several of the Pittsburgh papers of the application for a charter by Attorneys Burling and Challenger in the county of Allegheny county for a charter for the Pope Stone and Brick Company of Dunbar. The company is the reorganized company of the Pope Stone & Brick Company which operates the blue stone quarry in Dunbar township about three miles above the furnace.

The company is organized with a capital of \$150,000. The company is composed of the following persons: Charles E. Pope, Adam E. Dawn, George S. White, of Pittsburgh and Robert D. Jones of this place. It is the intention of the company to erect a new building for the purpose of crushing stone. The company has now on stock about 500,000 cut blocks and at the present no blocks will be cut but orders for crushed stone have been received which will enable the company to run for the next year full. With the reorganization of the company it will mean steady work for about 200 men which will mean much toward the prosperity of Dunbar.

IDLE CARS INCREASE.

Half of the Total Surplus is in Box Cars.

An increase of 25.5 per cent in the number of idle cars over the figure of two weeks ago is shown by the report of the American Railway Association, bringing the data down to April 27. The total number of idle cars reported is 102,943, an increase of 5,776, making a net total of idle cars of 20,319, an increase of 15,962 over two weeks ago.

About one half of the total surplus is made up of box cars, the remainder being divided between coal and miscellaneous. The increase in the latter class being ascribed to the accumulation of coke cars in the Middle West.

LARGE OFFER MADE.

Georges' Creek Company May Now Sell Balance of Their Holdings.

An offer of something like \$250,000 has been made by Philadelphia interests for the remaining property of the Georges' Creek Coal & Iron Company located at Leasacoming, Md. Some time ago the company sold its Pennsylvania coal lands in West Virginia to the Jamison Coal & Coke Company of Greensburg, for something over \$3,200,000, \$500,000 to be paid in cash and the balance in bonds. The cash has been distributed and at a meeting held in Cumberland on Tuesday the bonds were ordered distributed.

OIL LEASES TAKEN.

Tests Will Be Made in Jefferson and Franklin Townships.

The Greensboro Gas Company has leased a large tract of land in Jefferson and Franklin townships and is hunting for an increased supply. Leases have been recorded whereby the company is authorized to drill on the various farms of the late Joseph S. Elliott, Jefferson township; Harvey J. Steele, Jefferson; M. M. Huff, Franklin and J. E. Wheeler. The leases are granted upon payment of \$1, but the land owners will receive \$75 per quarter for each flowing well.

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Jos. Soisson Fire Brick Co.,

MANUFACTURERS OF

High Grade Silica and Fire Clay Brick

For Coke Ovens, Furnaces, Glass Houses and Cupolas. Special Shapes on Short Notice. Tile and Ground Clays.

Annual Capacity of Combined Works 60,000,000

Works:	Analysis of Silica Brick.
Volcano.....B. & O. R. R.	Silica.....95.10
Moyer.....P. R. R.	Alumina.....2.16
Davidson.....B. & O. and P. R. R.	Iron Oxide......60
Layton.....B. & O. R. R.	Lime.....1.80
Kingston.....L. V. and P. R. R.	Magnesia......15

MAIN OFFICE: CONNELLSVILLE, PA.

SILICA Coke Oven Brick.

KIER FIRE BRICK CO.

Established 1845. PITTSBURGH, PA.

H. M. Crawford. L. C. Mechling. E. L. Zearley.

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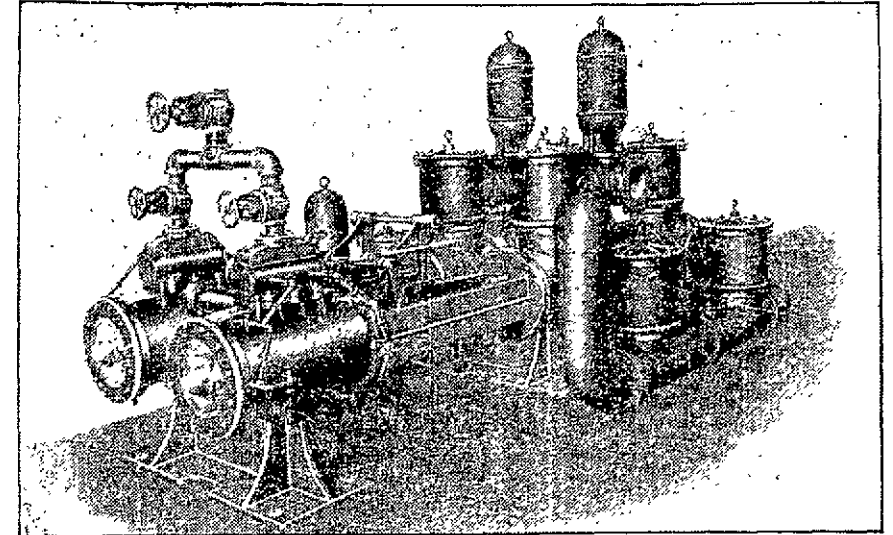
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